

due to personal reasons and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Number 553 on agreeing to Amendment No. 5 offered by Rep. ENGEL—Nay.

Roll Call Number 554 passage of H.R. 5719—Aye.

Roll Call Number 555 passage of H.R. 5037—Aye.

Roll Call Number 556 passage of H.R. 5798—Aye.

TRIBUTE TO PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Putnam County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Thursday, September 22, 2016.

The county sits on the southwestern edge of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was named in honor of Israel Putnam, a hero in the French and Indian War and a general during the American Revolutionary War. The county was formed on April 1, 1822 from Owen and Vigo Counties and parts of the Wabash New Purchase. The county seat is located in Greencastle, home of DePauw University. The county is famous for the many surviving covered bridges that remain from a bygone era.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are generally, culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the ten Legacy Projects throughout the county are: the Heritage Preservation Society of Putnam County, the Town of Bainbridge, DNR Nature Preserves, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, DePauw University, the Putnam County Bicentennial Celebrations Planning Group, and National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Putnam County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

A CAREER SPENT CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephanie Heilig of Duluth, Minnesota for her 41 years of service within the Duluth School District going above and beyond to create a positive learning environment for all students. I want to wish Stephanie the best as she celebrates her much deserved retirement.

While Principal of Myers-Wilkins Elementary, where a majority of students come from households with incomes below the poverty line, Principal Heilig worked tirelessly to engage families and give students the resources they need to learn. As students, teachers, administrators, and principals begin a new school year, one of the biggest issues facing schools is an achievement gap between students from different demographic groups. However, at Myers-Wilkins Elementary Principal Heilig's efforts created an environment where all students, regardless of their background, had an equal opportunity to learn.

She was very passionate about fostering a collaboration between the school and the community it serves by setting up after-school programs such as "family nights." During school she would use every available opportunity to give books to students while encouraging them to read. Additionally, she made a point to spend time in the halls of Myers-Wilkins talking to students to learn about their lives outside of school, their struggles and their achievements.

Thank you Stephanie for your 41 years of dedicated service and for going above and beyond what was required to give all students the best possible environment to learn. Please join me in wishing Stephanie Heilig the absolute best in her retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE SYLVANIA SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a momentous occasion in the life of the Sylvania congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis. The Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis are celebrating their centennial year in 2016 and Saturday September 24, 2016, the Sisters and our community came together in a centennial celebration honoring the Franciscans' 100 years of service in our community.

It was Bishop Joseph Schrembs of the Toledo Catholic Diocese who initially requested religious sisters to teach the children of Polish immigrants in Toledo's Catholic Schools. On December 8, 1916, the Sylvania Franciscans were founded as a province of the Sisters of St. Francis in Rochester, Minnesota. The Sisters were stationed at St. Hedwig School in the North End of Toledo and a hub of Polish life in the city. After 89 acres of land was purchased in 1917 through the Rochester community, the Sisters were formally established in Sylvania, Ohio and were known as the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and were led by Mother Adelaide.

In the century that followed, the Sylvania Franciscans branched out from their original call to teach the city's Polish immigrant children to sharing the Franciscan presence in ministries spanning health care, housing, human services and pastoral care in addition to education. The Sisters' work is carried forth in eight states and the country of Haiti with 150 Sisters serving our human family. The Sisters' ministries are founded on the "core values of reverence, service, community, stewardship." The Franciscan Sisters are

called "like Francis of Assisi to live the Gospel in joyful servanthood among all people. The Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, as messengers of peace, commit themselves to works that reverence human dignity, embrace the poor and marginalized, and respect the gift of all creation." Living Christ's message described in Matthew 25:40 "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." The Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis come to their centennial year as an integral part of our community. Their imprimatur is seen everywhere, from the beautiful elegiac campus in Sylvania, to the schools, caring services and hospitals in which they minister, and the Sylvania Franciscan Village which was established to integrate the Sisters' ministries.

In addition to traditional ministries, the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis are leading efforts toward peace and justice and restoring nature. The Sisters note, "We believe that nature, the arts and culture, and the goodness around us nurture our souls and make us sensitive to Mother Earth and her peoples." It is that connection that truly defines the Sisters of St. Francis. A walk on the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis is to behold the beauty of nature in all of its glory, to hear the silence and to feel God's presence everywhere.

From the barracks and strawberry patch Mother Adelaide and the 22 pioneering Sisters first established, the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis now feature many buildings in which the Sisters live and work, shrines, grottos, a prayer garden, the Portiuncula Chapel and adjacent Lourdes University. Its mission-style buildings showcase stunning mosaics and works of arts crafted by the Sisters themselves. It is truly an oasis of peace and tranquility.

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." Throughout their one hundred year history the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis have lived this truth. Their presence and their good works demonstrate Christ's path and God's deep love. As the Sisters go forth toward their next centennial, let us be mindful of the history, but with a vision for the future. Our community gratefully and enthusiastically joins with them to celebrate the life of this vital and cherished congregation that is the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 542, had I been present, I would have voted NO.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STILLWATER AREA COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 25th Anniversary of

the Stillwater Area Community Center in Stillwater, New York. The Community Center's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Stillwater community.

The Community Center offers programs and activities for children and adults of all ages, which include recreational and physical activities in their popular and well-used gym. Through their before and after school programs, summer swim lessons and transportation options, the Center provides a safe place for all to gather, even during disasters, when it serves as an emergency shelter. The Center is also utilized as a location for public forums, enabling Stillwater residents to be active and informed citizens.

To celebrate their years of service to the community, the Center's 25th Anniversary Open House will be an opportunity for Stillwater residents to participate in a wide range of activities. Since the Center is home to the village and town historians, residents will have the opportunity to learn about the history of Stillwater and the growth of the Community Center over the past 25 years.

Congratulations to the Stillwater Area Community Center as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. I want to wish the Center and the Village of Stillwater continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING TECHNICAL SERGEANT BONNY WILLIAMS, USAF, RETIRED

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Technical Sergeant Bonny Emanuel Williams, USAF, Retired.

Bonny Williams began his military service in 1955 in the United States Air Force as a Logistics Plan Clerk. During his time in the Air Force, Mr. Williams served all over the world on various military assignments. In 1975, after twenty years of exemplary service to our nation, Mr. Williams retired from the Air Force.

After his retirement, Mr. Williams attended City University of Seattle and earned a Bachelor of Science in business management under the Post Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program. Mr. Williams was also active in his community and worked tirelessly to serve the veteran's community. He was involved with the American Legion and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post for 44 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the life of Technical Sergeant Bonny Emanuel Williams, USAF, Retired and his service to his country and community. His accomplishments and contributions will never be forgotten, and he will be greatly missed.

COMMEMORATING SADDLEBACK COLLEGE ON ITS SCIENCES BUILDING

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representa-

tive DARRELL ISSA, I congratulate Saddleback College on its new Sciences Building, a 52,897 square foot state-of-the-art facility designed to encourage research and innovation.

Under the leadership of Dr. Tod A. Burnett, 23 full-time faculty, 41 part-time faculty, and 11 staff members will support Saddleback's science programs, which include a record enrollment of more than 3,000 students this year.

The building's lobby features an Albert Einstein quote: "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used to create them." This exemplifies the innovative approach to learning the building will facilitate.

A well-educated, well-trained workforce is essential to keeping the United States competitive on a global stage. Saddleback College's new facility will serve Californians well as the need for employees educated in the STEM fields continues to grow.

We congratulate Saddleback College on its new Sciences Building, and we look forward to seeing its students' contributions to the community.

HONORING BETHEL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED BAPTIST CHURCHES OF JESUS CHRIST CELEBRATING ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bethel Association of United Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ celebrating its 200th anniversary.

A group of settlers to the Missouri Territory organized the first Baptist Church west of the Mississippi on July 19, 1806 near what is now Jackson, Missouri. Ten years later, six churches came together to form the Bethel Association. In 1834, at Pendleton Church in St. Francois County, the Bethel Association accepted the term "United Baptist." The organization has continued to meet every year since its founding—except during the four years of the Civil War. The Bethel Association has established 87 churches throughout Missouri, Illinois, and Arkansas and there have been 250 ordained ministers in the organization to date.

The Bethel Association today is made up of 11 churches and approximately 850 members in the Missouri counties of St. Francois, Madison, Ste. Genevieve, Wayne, Crawford and Iron.

For 200 years of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is my privilege to recognize the Bethel Association of United Baptist Churches today before the United States House of Representatives.

OVERLOOKING AL-QAEDA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, back in 2012, the President told the American people that al-Qaeda was "decimated." Two years later, the President touted U.S. success in "taking out terrorists who threaten us" in

places like Somalia and Yemen, both countries with strong and active al-Qaeda branches. Look at those countries now: Somalia's al-Shabaab continues its terror campaign against Somali and AMISOM troops, and Yemen's rebel conflict has breathed new life into al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

The problem with this Administration's assertions of success is that they fundamentally misunderstood al-Qaeda's strategy in light of the loud-mouthed tactics of its terrorist spinoff, ISIS. The two terrorist organizations seek the same end goal: the establishment of an Islamic state where only their strict interpretation of Islamic law is tolerated. However, ISIS and al-Qaeda disagree on the means to reach that end. Al-Qaeda's leaders and ideologues, including Osama bin Laden, have always advocated playing the long game: embedding itself in local populations, building relationships, and even allying with enemies and rivals in order to achieve their goals. Winning over the hearts and minds of local Muslim populations has always been the priority for al-Qaeda. ISIS, on the other hand, believes that the establishment of the caliphate is the supreme priority, judging that force—instead of persuasion—can garner the loyalty of local communities.

While ISIS was busy conquering vast swaths of land in Syria and Iraq, al-Qaeda was not simply sitting back and watching dejectedly. It was entrenching itself throughout the Middle East, in Yemen, Syria, Libya and Tunisia. Al-Qaeda leaders, while fundamentally disagreeing with ISIS' establishment of a caliphate on Islamic legal grounds, also criticized what they saw as ISIS overstretching its resources. They were busy readying the grounds for ISIS' inevitable collapse and al-Qaeda's return to the spotlight. Unfortunately, the Administration misunderstands this. While focusing all of our attention on ISIS, we have overlooked al-Qaeda and dismissed it as defeated. This is exactly what al-Qaeda wants: the breathing room to grow stronger along with the optics of appearing more moderate to its extremist Muslim base than ISIS. Once ISIS loses all its territory in Iraq and Syria, as well as its fast shrinking base in Libya, it will be left with nothing but a band of sympathizers and a radical ideology. Al-Qaeda however will have developed deep ties to local communities throughout the region, strengthened its operational capabilities, and emerge more dangerous than ever.

Success against ISIS should only be judged in the context of the global war on terror. Partial success in one battlefield and total failure in another will not be enough to ensure the security of our homeland. We must go after al-Qaeda now more than ever before it is too late.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MORGAN COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Morgan County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Friday, September 23, 2016.